

Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015



Media Kit



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I Marine Expeditionary Force

Public Affairs Office

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Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5025



MEDIA ADVISORY

August 6, 2015

15-012

imefpublicaffairs@usmc.mil

Media Desk: 760-763-7047

U.S., Partner Nations to practice naval amphibious operations in Southern California

SAN DIEGO – Naval, aviation and ground forces from the United States, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand are scheduled to participate in Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 off the coast and ashore in Southern California from August 31 to September 9.

Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 Intro Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5yUFJlnLdc&feature=youtu.be>

Dawn Blitz 2015 (DB15) is a multinational amphibious exercise designed to train the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in operations expected of an amphibious task force while also building U.S. and partner nation operational capabilities and interoperability. DB15 will also test military forces in the planning and execution of amphibious operations in a series of live training events at sea and ashore.

(Historical: [Dawn Blitz 2013 coverage](#))

Units from U.S. Third Fleet (C3F) and I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) will utilize latest technologies and live exercise techniques to accomplish Dawn Blitz 2015 training objectives.

DB15 will involve the compositing of 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB) and the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 3 (ESG 3) as a brigade-level task force. U.S. and partner nations will conduct live-fire training at sea and ashore, Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) training, sea-basing operations and tactical amphibious operations from ship to shore.

Australia, Colombia and Chile will also integrate military personnel within the U.S. military staff to collaborate on the latest operational strategies and build a shared understanding of how to conduct coalition sea-basing and amphibious operations ashore.

This exercise is one of a series of amphibious training events on both coasts of the U.S. that take place alternating years. Last year on the east coast, Bold Alligator 2014 exercised U.S. and coalition forces across a broad range of sea-based vessels while conducting amphibious operations at sea and ashore as well as training in support of contingency operations.

Exercises like Dawn Blitz 2015 provide realistic, relevant training necessary for effective global crisis response expected of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Media interested in covering DB15 should contact I MEF Public Affairs at (760) 763-7047 or at imefpublicaffairs@usmc.mil and provide your full name, news organization, a good cell number and email address. Due to limited transportation capacity on the MV-22 Osprey, request media respond by Friday, Aug. 14 to hold a spot.

U.S. and international media are invited to conduct coverage during DB15.

For planning purposes, the below dates are available for media coverage:

Aug. 31 – Departure of U.S., Japan and Mexican naval vessels

Sept. 3 – U.S., Japan Media Day at Sea – Visit U.S. and Japanese ships at sea, view amphibious and aviation ops, interviews with key leadership and coalition participants

Sept. 5 – All Countries Media Day Ashore – Observe “D-Day” operations bringing military forces and equipment ashore via aviation and surface crafts, interview senior military officials, capture coalition operations ashore

Sept. 6 – Mexico Media Day – Visit Mexican ship at sea, view amphibious operations and interview key personnel, capture Mexican military operations ashore

Sept. 7 – U.S., Coalition military operations ashore at Camp Pendleton

Sept. 10 – Dawn Blitz Closing Ceremony

(Subject to change)

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DVIDS – Dawn Blitz

I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs Office

PO Box 555321
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5025



MEDIA ADVISORY

August 28, 2015

15-013

imefpublicaffairs@usmc.mil

Media Desk: 760-763-7047

Multinational Naval, Ground Exercise in SoCal kicks off Aug. 31

SAN DIEGO – Naval, ground and aviation forces from the United States, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand will depart Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) Aug. 31, to participate in Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 (DB-15) off the coast and ashore at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center 29 Palms, California, through September 9.

DB-15 is a scenario-driven exercise designed to train the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in operations expected of an amphibious task force while also building U.S. and coalition operational interoperability. The exercise will test staffs in the planning and execution of amphibious operations in a series of live training events at sea, in the air and ashore.

Ships participating in DB-15 include USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS New Orleans (LPD 18), USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), USS Somerset (LPD 25), SS Curtis (T-AVB 4), USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110), and USS Shoup (DDG 86); Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force ships JS Hyuga (DDH 181), JS Kunisaki (LST 4003), and JS Ashigara (DDG 178); and Mexican Navy Ships ARM Usumacinta (A 412) and ARM Revolucion (P 164).

Units from U.S. Third Fleet and I Marine Expeditionary Force will utilize the latest technologies and live exercises to accomplish DB-15 training objectives. The exercise will involve an amphibious landing, live-fire opportunities, and Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) training and sea-basing operations.

DB-15 will promote interoperability and cooperation between joint, coalition, and U.S. Forces, providing the opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn from each other, establish personal and professional relationships and hone individual and small-unit skills through challenging, complex and realistic live scenarios with special focus on building combat power ashore.

This exercise is one of a series of amphibious training events on both coasts of the U.S. Exercises like DB-15 provide realistic, relevant training necessary for effective global crisis response expected of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Media interested in covering the exercise should contact I Marine Expeditionary Force Public Affairs at (760) 763-7047 or imefpublicaffairs@usmc.mil.

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Exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 Background



Dawn Blitz 2015 is a multinational amphibious training exercise, held in Southern California, designed to train Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3), 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB), Japan Self Defense Forces (JSDF), Mexican Armed Forces (MAF), and New Zealand Armed Forces (NZAF) in sea-basing, amphibious landing and command and control. Dawn Blitz provides a robust training environment where forces plan and execute an amphibious landing from a sea base in a low threat environment to improve naval amphibious force core competencies.

The exercise will occur at sea aboard ships home ported at Naval Base San Diego, ashore aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and inland at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Participants include Expeditionary Strike Group 3 (ESG 3), 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1st MEB), 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Aircraft Group 16, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, I MEF Brigade Headquarters Group, USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS New Orleans (LPD18), USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), USS Somerset (LPD 25), SS Curtis (T-AVB 4), Naval Beach Group ONE, Tactical Air Control Group ONE, Coastal Riverine Group ONE, USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110), USS Shoup (DDG 86), Amphibious Squadron ONE, Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE, Special Purpose MAGTF Crisis Response Force, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force ships JDS Hyuga (DDH 181), JDS Shimokita (LST 4002), and JDS Atago (DDG 177), Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces, Mexican Navy Ships ARM Usumacinta (A 412) and ARM Revolucion (P 164), Mexican aviation and ground forces and New Zealand ground forces.

Dawn Blitz 2010 was the first MEB-level amphibious assault exercise the Marine Corps conducted since 2001. A second iteration was conducted in 2013, which resulted in high level South China Sea attention. The core capability of MEB-level amphibious operations is essential to national defense. Dawn Blitz 2015 affords the Navy/Marine Corps team the opportunity to capture lessons learned, gain experience at the most junior ranks, develop Navy-Marine Corps amphibious staff expertise and test new capabilities and equipment while developing interoperability and positive relations with coalition partners.

Fully participating nations include U.S., Japan, New Zealand and Mexico. Representatives from Australia, Chile, Colombia and Peru will attend as observers.



Participating Countries and Units



Commands Involved:

1. United States:

- US Navy -
 - Expeditionary Strike Group Three Command Element (ESG 3)
 - Naval Beach Group ONE
 - Tactical Air Control Group ONE
 - Coastal Riverine Group ONE
 - Amphibious Squadron ONE
 - Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command
 - Mine Countermeasures Squadron THREE
- US Marine Corps -
 - 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade Command Element (1st MEB)
 - Regimental Combat Team 5 (RCT-5)
 - Combat Logistics Regiment 1 (CLR-1)
 - I MEF Brigade Headquarters Group (I MEF BHG)
 - Marine Aircraft Group 16 (MAG-16)
 - Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response Force

-US Naval Ships:

USS Boxer – LHD 4
USS New Orleans – LDP 18
USS Somerset – LDP 25
USS Hapers Ferry – LSD 49
USS Curtis – T-AVB 4
USS William P. Lawrence – DDG 110
USS Shoup – DDG 86

2. Japan – Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces (JSDF)

Ships: JDS Hyuga – DDH 181
JS Ashigara – DDG 178
JDS Kunisaki – LST 4003

3. Mexico - Mexican Armed Forces (MAF), Mexican Aviation and Ground Forces.

Ships: ARM Usumacinta – A 412
ARM Revolucion – P 164

4. New Zealand – New Zealand Ground Forces (NZAF).

*Observing Countries: Australia, Chile and Colombia.

USS Boxer (LHD 4)



The sixth ship to carry the name BOXER would be the fourth ship of the Wasp class multi-purpose amphibious assault ship (LHD). Fabrication work for LHD 4 began at Litton-Ingalls in Pascagoula, Miss. July 9, 1990. The ship's keel was authenticated April 8, 1991 and the ship was launched Aug. 13, 1993. The ship was officially christened the USS Boxer (LHD 4) Aug. 28, 1993.

After post-launch outfitting and testing, Ingalls delivered the ship to the U.S. Navy Nov. 21, 1994. Boxer began its service to the Navy as its fourth LHD Feb. 11, 1995 almost four years after its construction began.

Boxer has served in many exercises, deployments, operations and actions in her service to the US Navy. Operations of note the USS Boxer participated in were Operation Northern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. The Boxer also participated in humanitarian missions and an international anti-piracy task force where, as the flagship of Combined Task Force 151, USS Boxer played a key role in the rescue of the captain of U.S. flagged container ship MV Maersk Alabama who was held hostage by Somali pirates.

For more information on this and other amphibious assault ships check out: http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=400&ct=4

USS New Orleans (LPD 18)



USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD-18) is a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship designed to be one of the most survivable amphibious ships ever put to sea. The design incorporates state-of-the-art self-defense capabilities, and includes facilities for Command and Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I). The ship has substantially increased vehicle lift capacity, a large flight deck, and advanced ship survivability features that enhance its ability to operate in the unforgiving littoral environment. NEW ORLEANS provides each naval expeditionary force with greatly enhanced operational flexibility.

The SAN ANTONIO class is the functional replacement for four classes of less capable amphibious ships equipped with 1970's and early 1980's technology, including its predecessor, the USS AUSTIN (LPD-4) class.

USS SOMERSET (LPD 25)



USS Somerset (LPD-25), a San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock, is the fifth ship of the United States Navy of that name; in this case in honor of Somerset County, Pennsylvania. These ships combine 21st century amphibious shipbuilding and war-fighting technologies to support current and future Marine Corps aircraft and landing craft, and are capable of taking nearly 1,200 Sailors and Marines into harm's way.

For more information on this and other amphibious transport dock ships check out: http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=600&ct=4

USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49)



Dock Landing Ships support amphibious operations including landings via Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), conventional landing craft and helicopters, onto hostile shores. These ships transport and launch amphibious craft and vehicles with their crews and embarked personnel in amphibious assault operations.

For more information on this and other dock landing ships check out:
http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1000&ct=4

USS Curtis (T-AVB 4)



Provide Intermediate Maintenance Activity (IMA) to forward deployed Marine Corps fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft.

For more information on this and other aviation logistic support ships check out:
<http://www.msc.navy.mil/inventory/ships.asp?ship=78>

USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110)



With a highly-trained crew hailing from across the United States, the WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE will provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities to the United States surface fleet in support of national policy. WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE will serve as a multi-mission platform that can operate either independently or as part of surface, expeditionary or aircraft carrier strike groups in air, surface and undersea threat environments.

For more information on this and other destroyers check out:
http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=900&ct=4

USS Shoup (DDG 89)



USS SHOUP (DDG 86) is the 36th ship in the Arleigh Burke class of Aegis guided missile destroyers, and the eighth Flight IIA Aegis destroyer. She is the sixteenth Aegis destroyer constructed by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems' Ingalls Operations. Her keel was laid on 13 December 1999 in Pascagoula, MS. She was launched on 22 November 2000, and delivered to the Navy on 19 February 2002. She was commissioned at Port Terminal 37 in Seattle, WA on 22 June 2002.

SHOUP was built to conduct simultaneous warfare operations in multi-threat environments to include air, surface, and subsurface targets.

JDS Hyuga (DDH 181)



Hyuga Class helicopter destroyers are in service with the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF). IHI Marine United custom built two Hyuga Class ships at the Yokohama shipyard, for the JMSDF. The keel for the lead ship in class, JDS Hyuga (DDH181), was laid down in March 2006. It was launched in August 2007. The ship was commissioned at Yokosuka port in Japan on 18 March 2009. Among other unique aspects, the DDH181 is the first JMSDF destroyer to have female crew members on board. JDS Hyuga is homeported at Sa Sebo. The Hyuga Class destroyers are a new type of helicopter destroyer (DDH). Hyuga Class replaced the existing 7,000t Haruna Class destroyers. The ship is part of the 16DDH project; the name is derived from the 16th year of the Heisei reign in the Japanese calendar. Hyuga was one of the Japanese Imperial Navy's battleships that were converted into hybrid battleships / aircraft carriers in 1943.

JS Ashigara (DDG 178)



JS Ashigara (DDG-178) is an Atago class guided missile destroyer in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). Ashigara was named for Mount Ashigara, and is the first Japanese ship to bear the prefix JS (Japanese Ship) instead of JDS (Japanese Defense Ship).

She was laid down by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Nagasaki, Nagasaki on April 6, 2005, launched on August 30, 2006; and was commissioned on 13 March 2008. This ship was one of several in the JMSDF fleet participating in disaster relief after the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami.

JDS Kunisaki (LST 4003)



JDS Kunisaki is a Ōsumi class LST of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The ship was built by Hitachi, Maizuru, Kyoto and commissioned into service on 26 February 2003.

ARM Usumacinta (A 412)



U.S. Navy ship and sold to Mexico and renamed ARM Usumacinta (A 412). Two derrick arms support a thirty-ton, 112-foot bow ramp for the unloading of tanks and other vehicles ashore, additionally, amphibious vehicles can be launched from the tank deck via the ship's stern gate and the ship's flight deck can accommodate most helicopters.

ARM Revolucion (P 164)



The ARM Revolucion (P 164) became the fourth ship of the Oaxaca-class when she was commissioned for service in the Mexican Navy during 2010. As an offshore patrol vessel she is modestly armed for patrol duty in and around Mexican waters, both in the Gulf and along the Pacific Coast, and are appropriately armed with a conventional array of projectile-firing systems. Of the eight planned, four have since been delivered. The Oaxaca name comes from the state of Oaxaca.



Rear Admiral Daniel Fillion
Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE



Rear Admiral Daniel Fillion serves as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE. As Commander, Fillion leads three amphibious squadrons, eight naval support elements and 12 amphibious warships comprised of more than 13,500 active and reserve Sailors and Marines. His immediate previous assignment was U.S. Southern Command's director of Strategy, Policy, & Plans, J5.

Fillion is a 1984 graduate of the College of Charleston, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. He also earned a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University, and is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College, Joint Forces Staff College and the Navy Corporate Business Course.

Fillion's afloat assignments include service aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as navigator and the USS Wasp (LHD 1) as executive officer and commanding officer. His aviation assignments in the SH-3 and SH-60B/R involved tours with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 1, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadrons Light 40, 44, and 46, and Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 2. He served as commanding officer of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 51 and of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41.

Ashore and staff assignments have included duty in the Politico-Military Affairs Directorate in Joint Staff J5; director of the President's Emergency Operations Center in the White House; Air Warfare Research, Senior Development, Test and Evaluation Budget Analyst in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Fellow on the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group (SSG XXIX); and executive assistant to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller).

Fillion's military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), and various service and unit awards.

Brigadier General David. W. Coffman
Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade



Brigadier General Coffman assumed duties as Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Pendleton, California on 13 July 2015. Concurrently, he serves as Commanding General 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade. He was born and raised in Eustis, Florida, graduated cum laude from Duke University, and was commissioned a Marine Second Lieutenant through the NROTC Program in May 1985. He completed flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator in May 1987.

As a CH-46 helicopter pilot, his operational flying tours include multiple deployments across PACOM and CENTCOM AORs with HMM-262 out of Hawaii, HMM-163 out of El Toro, California, and as Commanding Officer of HMM-161 stationed at MCAS Miramar California. Then LtCol Coffman commanded HMM-161 during their 2004 deployment to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, where the squadron served as the primary Casualty Evacuation squadron for I MEF and was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association as the Edward C. Dyer Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron of the Year for 2004.

Then Colonel Coffman commanded the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (13th MEU) at Camp Pendleton from January 2008 to October 2011. He led the "fighting thirteenth" through two full deployment cycles, culminating in seven month deployments aboard BOXER Amphibious Ready Group (BOX ARG) in 2009 and again in 2011. From June 2013 to July 2015, Brigadier General Coffman assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces South, where as the Marine service component commander he was responsible to the Commander U.S. Southern Command for all Marine activities across Central and South America and the Caribbean. Concurrently, he served as Deputy Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia.

BGen Coffman has served on staff at multiple levels of command, including MEU, MAG, MEF, JTF, Combatant Command and the Joint Staff. At USCENTCOM from 1999 to 2002, he supported the development and execution of combined exercise programs with friendly nations on the Arabian Peninsula and supervised the USCENTCOM ARG-MEU Exercise Program. In 2003, he

participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom I as MAG-16 Operations Officer. From 2006 to 2008 he served as Future Operations Officer for I MEF. From 2012 to 2013 he was assigned to the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, where he served as a Deputy Director of Operations for the National Military Command Center.

BGen Coffman graduated with honors from both The Basic School and the Amphibious Warfare School, earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies with highest distinction while attending the College of Naval Command and Staff at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and completed a Top-Level-School-equivalent fellowship with the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, California where he served as Commandant of the Marine Corps Fellow providing Marine expertise to the ongoing national defense related research conducted at Rand.

BGen Coffman's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars for service in OIF, the Purple Heart for wounds received while flying a Casualty Evacuation mission in Iraq in 2004, multiple single mission and strike flight Air Medals, other personal decorations for meritorious service, and numerous campaign and service medals.



Vice Admiral Nora Tyson
Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet



A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Vice Admiral Nora Tyson graduated from Vanderbilt University and received her commission from Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. She earned her wings as a naval flight officer in 1983 and reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 4, where she ultimately served three tours at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland, and Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, including one as commanding officer.

Tyson also commanded the amphibious assault ship, USS Bataan (LHD 5), leading the Navy's contributions to disaster relief efforts on the U.S. Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and deploying twice to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her other commands include commander, Task Force 73/commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific based in Singapore and, most recently, commander, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 2, where she led the USS George H.W. Bush Strike Group on its maiden deployment in support of operations in both 6th and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Her other tours at sea include assistant operations officer aboard the training aircraft carrier, USS Lexington (AVT 16), and as navigator aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Her shore tours include service on the Joint Staff as a political-military planner in the Asia-Pacific Division of the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate (J-5); as executive assistant for the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; as director of staff for Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, 6th Fleet; as executive assistant for the Chief of Naval Operations; and as vice director, Joint Staff. Tyson's last tour was as deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Tyson reported as Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet in July 2015.

Tyson earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Affairs from the U.S. Naval War College in 1995.

General David H. Berger
Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force



Lieutenant General Berger was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1981 following graduation from Tulane University. As a Lieutenant and Captain, he served as platoon commander in 1st Marine Division, and later as company commander and Battalion Operations Officer in 2d Reconnaissance Battalion during OPERATION DESERT STORM. He also served as Officer Selection Officer in Roanoke, Virginia.

As a field grade officer Lieutenant General Berger was an instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) in Yuma, Arizona; instructor at III MEF Special Operations Training Group; and served on the Joint Staff as a policy planner in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, J-5.

Lieutenant General Berger commanded 3d Battalion, 8th Marines from 2002 to 2004, deploying the Battalion first to Okinawa, and later to Haiti in support of Operation Secure Tomorrow. As a Colonel, Lieutenant General Berger commanded Regimental Combat Team 8 in Fallujah, Iraq during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

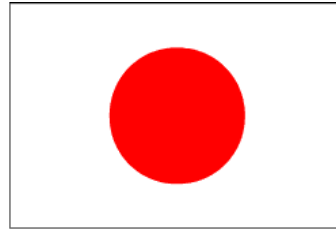
While serving as Assistant Division Commander of 2d Marine Division, he was appointed to the rank of Brigadier General. He then deployed to Kosovo, where he served for one year as Chief of Staff for KFOR Headquarters in Pristina. From 2009 to 2011 he served at Headquarters Marine Corps as the Director of Operations in Plans, Policies, and Operations. In 2012 he deployed to Afghanistan as the Commanding General of 1st Marine Division (forward) in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

Lieutenant General Berger served as Commanding General, MAGTFTC, and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center from 2013 to 2014. In addition to a B.S. in Engineering, he holds a Master of International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, and a M.S. in Military Studies.

His formal military education includes the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Advanced Course, U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and U.S. Marine Corps School of Advanced Warfighting. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, U.S. Navy Dive School, and U.S. Marine Corps Amphibious Reconnaissance School.



Lieutenant General Koji Yamazaki
Vice Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan



- Mar. 1984 8th Engineer Group
- Oct. 1989 Company Commander, 8th Engineer Group
- Aug. 1990 Engineer School
- Aug. 1992 Staff College (#38 Command & General Staff Course)
- Aug. 1994 Engineer School
- Aug. 1995 Assignment Division, Personnel Department, GSO
- Aug. 1997 Defense Planning Division, Plans & Operations Department, GSO
- Mar. 2001 Commander, 8th Engineer Battalion
- Aug. 2002 Assignment Division, Personnel Department, GSO
- Aug. 2003 Chief, 1st Personnel Section, Assignment Division, PD, GSO
- Apr. 2005 Attachment to Central Intelligence Service Unit (NDU)
- Aug. 2006 Researcher, Ground Research & Development Command
- Dec. 2006 Chief, Logistics Planning Division, Logistics Department, GSO
- Jul. 2008 Commanding General, 4th Engineer Brigade
- Jun. 2010 Deputy Chief of Staff, Western Army
- Jul. 2012 Director, Personnel Department, GSO
- Aug. 2014 Commanding General, 9th Division
- Apr. 2015 Present Assignment



Websites and Social Media



United States:

1. Facebook – Exercise Dawn Blitz
www.facebook.com/ExerciseDawnBlitz
2. Facebook – 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
www.facebook.com/1stMarineExpeditionaryBrigade
3. Twitter – Exercise Dawn Blitz
@DawnBlitzEx
4. Twitter – 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
@1stMarineEB
5. YouTube – 1st Marine Expeditionary Force
@1stMEFUSMC
6. Instagram –
@1stMEF
7. Official Website – Exercise Dawn Blitz
<http://www.imef.marines.mil/Units/1STMEB/DawnBlitz2015.aspx>
8. Official Website – 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
<http://www.imef.marines.mil/Units/1STMEB>
9. DVIDS – Exercise Dawn Blitz
www.dvidshub.net/feature/DawnBlitz
10. DVIDS - 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade
www.dvidshub.net/unit/1EB

Japan:

1. Official GSDF Website – Japan Ground-Self Defense Force
www.mod.go.jp/gsdf/
2. Official Joint Staff Website –
www.mod.go.jp/js/

3. Official MSDF Website – Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
www.mod.go.jp/msdf/
4. Facebook – Japan Ground Self-Defense Force
www.facebook.com/jgsdf.fep
5. YouTube – Japan Ground Self-Defense Force
www.youtube.com/user/JGSDFchannel
6. Twitter – Japan Ground Self-Defense Force
[@JGSDF_pr](https://twitter.com/JGSDF_pr)

Mexico:

1. Official Website – Secretaria de Marina
www.semar.gob.mx
2. Facebook – Secretaria de Marina
www.facebook.com/SEMARMX
3. Twitter – Secretaria de Marina
[@SEMAR_mx](https://twitter.com/SEMAR_mx)